

DOCKET NO.: 196726US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: : GROUP ART UNIT: 1619  
OLIVIER DE LACHARRIERE ET AL :  
SERIAL NO.: 09/686,997 : EXAMINER: WILLIS, M.  
FILED: OCTOBER 12, 2000 :  
FOR: USE OF DHEA OR PRECURSORS OR :  
METABOLIC DERIVATIVES THEREOF  
AS A DEPIGMENTING AGENT

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated December 12, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-11.

Please amend Claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) A method of depigmenting and/or bleaching of the skin and/or to improving the homogeneity of the color of the skin, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to the skin, wherein the metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol, 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione.

Please amend Claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) A method of pro-pigmenting superficial body growths, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to